UNITED STATED DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Trustees of the Westchester Putnam Counties Laborers' Local No. 60 Heavy & Highway Benefit Funds, Welfare, Pension. Annuity, Education & Training, Legal Services, Industry Advancement and Political Action Funds and the Laborers' International Union of North America Local No. 60.

JUDGE KARAS

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs,

-against-

CARINO MANAGEMENT INC.,

Defendant.

Trustees of the Westchester Putnam Counties Laborers' Local No. 60 Heavy & Highway Benefit Funds, Welfare, Pension, Annuity, Education & Training, Legal Services, Industry Advancement and Political Action Funds (hereinafter referred to as the "Funds"); and the Laborers' International Union of North America Local No. 60 (hereinafter "referred to as the "Union"), by and through their attorneys. Barnes, Iaccarino, Virginia, Ambinder & Shepherd, PLLC, allege as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This action is based on the provisions of Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 (hereinafter referred to as the "Taft-Hartley Act") 29 U.S.C. Section 185, and on Section 502(a)(3) and Section 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA") (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(a)(3) and 29 U.S.C. 1145).
- 2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and Sections 502(e)(1) and 502(f) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1132(e)(1) and 1132(f)); and derivative jurisdiction is contained in 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1337.

- 3. Venue properly lies in this District under the provisions of 502(e)(2) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(e)(2)) and Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b).
- 4. This action is brought by the respective Trustees of the Funds in their fiduciary capacities and the Union for injunctive relief, monetary damages and other equitable relief under the ERISA statute and to secure performance by the Employer of specific statutory and contractual obligations to submit the required monetary contributions, dues check-off, and/or reports to the Plaintiffs and to permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit.

PARTIES

- 5. The Plaintiff Trustees are, at all relevant times, fiduciaries of jointly administered multiemployer, labor management trust funds as defined by Section 3(21)(A) and Section 502(a)(3) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(21)(A) and 1132(a)(3). The Funds are established and maintained by the Union and various Employers pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement and Trust Indentures in accordance with Section 302(c)(5)(1) of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 186 (c)(5)). The Funds are employee benefit plans within the meaning of Sections 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29) U.S.C. Sections 1002 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 1132(d)(1), and multi-employer plans within the meaning of Sections 3(37) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(37) and 1145). Plaintiffs are Trustees of the Funds and the "plan sponsor" within the meaning of Section (3)(16)(B)(iii) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1002(16)(B)(iii)).
- 6. The Funds provide fringe benefits to eligible employees, retirees and their dependents on whose behalf the employer is required to contribute to the Funds pursuant to its collective bargaining agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement.") between the Employer and the Union. The Funds are authorized to collect contributions including, but not limited to, payments for life insurance,

hospitalization, medical care, vacation, annuity, pension benefits and Union dues check-off on behalf of the employees from signatory employers, and the Plaintiff Trustees, as fiduciaries of the Funds, are authorized to maintain suit as independent legal entities under Section 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(d)(1)) and are obligated to bring actions to enforce the provisions of the Agreement and Trust Indentures that concern the protection of employee benefit rights.

- 7. The Funds' have an office which is located and administered at 140 Broadway, Hawthorne, New York 10532, in the County of Westchester.
- 8. The Union, a labor organization within the meaning of Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185), represents employees in an industry affecting commerce as defined in Section 501 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 142), and Section 3(4) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1002(4)). and as further defined in Section 12 of the General Associations Law of the State of New York.
- 9. The Plaintiff Union maintains an office and is administered at 140 Broadway, Hawthorne, New York 10532, in the County of Westchester.
- 10. Upon information and belief, defendant CARINO MANAGEMENT INC., (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") at all relevant times, was and is an "employer" within the meaning of Sections 3(5) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(5) and 1145) in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185).
- 11. Upon information and belief, the Employer is a for-profit domestic corporation duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York with its principal place of business at 106 Van Guilder Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801, in the County of Westchester.

CAUSES FOR RELIEF AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

12. The Employer executed an Agreement with the Union and/or was and still is a party to a Agreement with the Union by virtue of membership in an Employer Association.

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- 13. The Agreement adopted by the Plaintiff Funds (hereinafter referred to as the "Policy") requires the Employer to submit contribution reports setting forth the hours that each of its employees worked and the amount of contributions due pursuant to the rate schedules set forth in the Agreement for all work performed by its employees covered by the Agreement and to remit such monetary contributions in accordance with the Agreement and the rules and regulations established in the Trust Indenture.
- 14. Upon information and belief, as a result of work performed by the individual employees of the Employer pursuant to the Agreement, there may be due and owing to the Funds and Union from the Employer contribution reports, fringe benefit contributions and dues check-off for the effective period of the Agreement.
- 15. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Employer is required to permit and cooperate with the Funds and/or their designated agents or representatives in an audit of the Employer's financial records for the purpose of ascertaining whether the full amount of benefit contributions have been made to the Funds as required under the Agreement and to verify the accuracy of the Employer's contribution reports.
- 16. The Employer has failed to allow an audit within the time prescribed by the Agreement for the period of the collective bargaining agreement.
- 17. The Employer's failure, refusal or neglect to remit the late charges and allow an audit constitutes a violation of the Agreement between the Employer and the Union wherein the Funds are third party beneficiaries.
- 18. Accordingly, the Employer must permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit by the Plaintiffs and is liable to Plaintiffs for benefit contributions found due and owing pursuant to the audit, plus liquidated damages, interest, audit fees and attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by the audit.

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AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 19. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "I" through "26" of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 20. In accordance with ERISA Section 209, 29 U.S.C. 1059 the Employer is responsible for maintaining the Books and records sufficient to allow the Funds to conduct an audit and failure to do so constitutes a violation of ERISA.
- 21. Section 515 of ERISA, (29 U.S.C. Section 1145) requires employers to pay fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 22. An Employer who has failed to pay or timely pay the fringe benefit contributions and/or submit the contribution reports owed as a result of work performed by individual employees of the Employer constitutes a violation of Section 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1145).
- 23. Section 502 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132) provides that upon a finding of an employer violation of Section 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1145) which requires employers to pay fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements, the Court shall award payment to a plaintiff Fund the unpaid fringe benefit contributions, plus statutory damages and interest on the unpaid principal amount due both computed at a rate provided by the Plaintiff Trustees in accordance with the Funds' policy, together with reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and disbursements incurred in the action.
- 24. The failure to permit an audit has injured the Funds and Union by delaying the investment of contributions that are found due pursuant to the audit; causing unnecessary administrative costs for the Funds and Union; and has injured the participants and beneficiaries and other contributing employers of the benefit plan in the form of lower benefits and higher contribution amounts.
- 25. Accordingly, the Employer is liable to Plaintiffs under the Agreement concerning the payment of fringe benefit contributions and under Sections 209, 502 and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1059,

1132 and 1145) due to the failure to permit an audit within the time prescribed by the Agreement and to pay the contributions that are due and owing.

26. Accordingly, the Employer must permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit and is liable to the Funds and Union in an amount to be determined by the audit, which shall include liquidated damages, interest and reasonable audit fees, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Section 502 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request a Judgment against Defendant CARINO MANAGEMENT INC.

On the First and Second Claims for Relief as follows:

- (a) An Order requiring the defendant to permit and cooperate in an audit of the defendant's books and records by the plaintiff or its agents for the effective period of the Collective Bargaining Agreement:
- (b) For a Judgment against the defendant for any monies found due and owing as a result of the audit of defendant's books and records which shall include the principal amount due plus interest, liquidated damages calculated at twenty (20%) percent of the principal amount found due and reasonable attorneys' fees and all costs as provided for in the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and
- (c) For such other and further relief as to the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: Elmsford, New York May 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES, IACCARINO, VIRGINIA, AMBINDER & SHEPHERD, PLLC

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